Docket No. AUS920010186US1

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

OPEN FRAMEWORK FOR THE DEFINITION OF METADATA

A family of Java interfaces defines methods to
provide common information about a property, such as data
5   type and editing capabilities. The interfaces identify
the methods used to get generic metadata. Implementers
may extend these classes, as needed, to provide the
metadata for their specific properties. The common
metadata description interface of the present invention
10   allows multiple metadata sources to be used
interchangeably within the same software product without
the software code being specifically written for each
metadata source.